

Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /033 W

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R 291515Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2312

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0605

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, MARR, GR (PAPANICOLAOU, LT. GEN. ALEXANDROS)

SUBJECT: USAF INVITATION TO LT. GEN. PAPANICOLAOU

REF: STATE 15190

1. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT NEXT SIX MONTHS WOULD BE A PROPITIOUS TIME WITHIN WHICH TO INVITE PAPANICOLAOU OR ANY GREEK MILITARY LEADER. NOT ONLY IS POLITICAL SITUATION STILL TENTATIVE ENOUGH TO COUNSEL DELAY, BUT AN INVITATION CONVEYED IN NEAR FUTURE MIGHT WELL BE INTERPRETED BY GREEK MILITARY AS ONE RESULTING FROM US ANXIETY AT DILEMMA POSED FOR USG BY PAPANICOLAOU'S DEMAND FOR RENEWED GRANT ASSISTANCE IN RETURN FOR AGREEMENT ON USE OF AIRFIELDS FOR HOMEPORTING. RECEIPT OF AN INVITATION BEFORE DEFINITIVE RESPONSE--PRESUMABLY NEGATIVE--GIVEN TO THIS DEMAND COULD HAVE EFFECT OF STIFFENING DEMAND WHEN WE HAVE REASON TO HOPE THAT REALITY MIGHT BE SINKING IN. THIS IN TURN COULD HAVE ADVERSE AFFECT ON NEGOTIATIONS ON SOUDA AB AND HOMEPORTING PHASE II. PROPOSED INVITATION THUS APPEARS FROM HERE TO BE CASE OF THE WRONG MAN AT THE WRONG TIME.

2. WE DO SHARE VIEW THAT SUCH VISITS CAN BE QUITE BENEFICIAL AND SUGGEST THAT A VISIT SOMETIME IN FY 1975, PROBABLY SECOND HALF, MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE. THIS, OF COURSE, IS BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT BY THAT TIME ISSUE OF RENEWED GRANT ASSISTANCE AND INTER-RELATED--AT LEAST IN GREEK MIND--ISSUE OF AIRFIELD USE

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FOR HOMEPORTING WOULD HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN RESOLVED. WE WOULD

HOPE TOO THAT BY THAT TIME THERE MIGHT BE SOME LIGHT AT THE END
OF THE EVER-LENGTHENING GREEK POLITICAL TUNNEL.

3. THE MATTER SHOULD OF COURSE BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW AND IN
EVENT CIRCUMSTANCE CHANGE, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT SUCH A VISIT
AT AN EARLIER DATE MIGHT BE USEFUL.
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Message Attributes

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